Women's Secretariat

For the fiscal year ended
March 31, 1991

Minister
Honourable Louise Simard

92-03278/

Women's Secretariat

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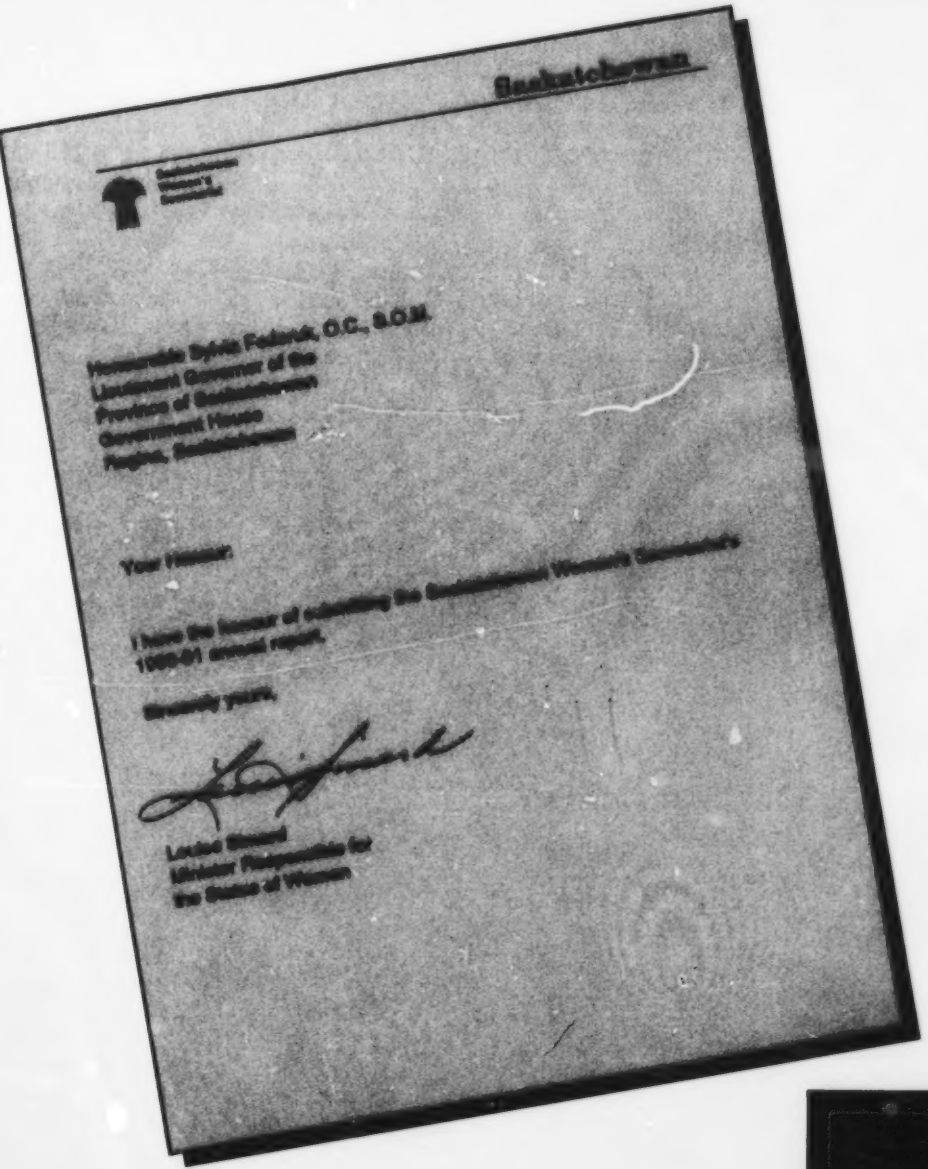
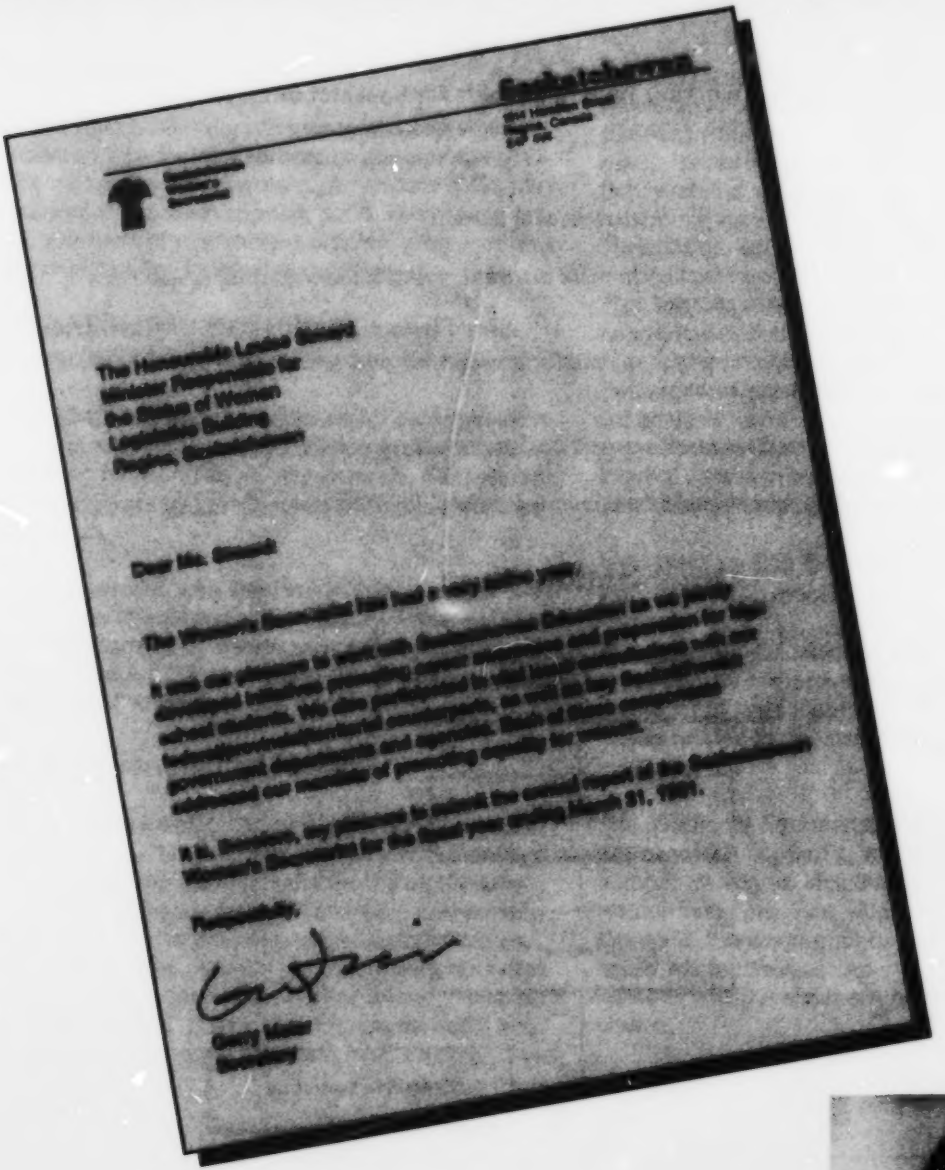

Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

Yours truly,

Linda Reed
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women

Secretary's Letter of Transmittal



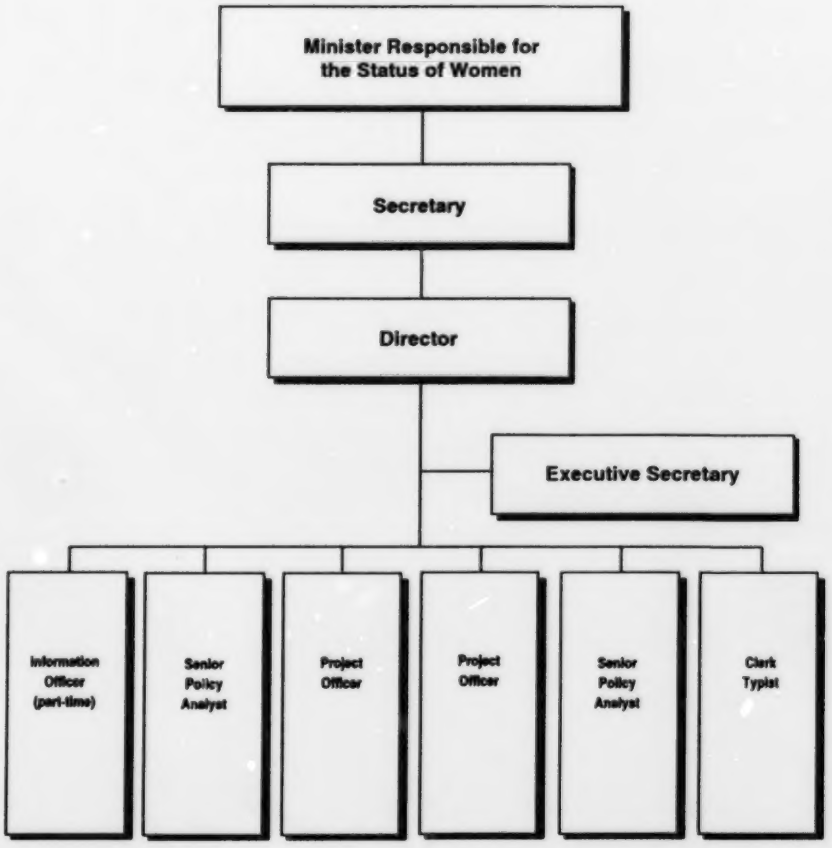
Mission Statement

The Women's Secretariat's mandate is **Working Toward Equality for Saskatchewan Women.**

Principles:

- *Encouraging economic self-sufficiency for Saskatchewan women.*
- *Providing public education and information to raise awareness and understanding of women's issues and concerns in all groups in society.*
- *Co-ordinating, promoting, developing and implementing programs and activities of the government relating to the status of women.*
- *Providing policy development and research support and services to government.*
- *Analyzing trends to anticipate and respond to women's future policy and program needs.*

Organization Chart



Role of the Women's Secretariat

Introduction

The Women's Secretariat works to integrate women's concerns into the mainstream of government planning and policy development. It provides policy development, research support, public awareness and co-ordination of government policies, programs and activities relating to the status of women.

Co-ordination, Consultation and Inter-departmental Liaison

In 1990-91, the Women's Secretariat participated on inter-departmental committees in a number of areas including family policy, family violence, child abuse, balancing work and family responsibilities, and career education.

The Secretariat was involved in joint projects with other departments and organizations. These included the development of career awareness projects with Saskatchewan Education and Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Inter-Governmental Liaison

As the representative for Saskatchewan, the Secretariat attended federal/provincial/territorial meetings of senior officials responsible for the Status of Women, and provided advice and support material for a meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women. Key issues under discussion included the Lake Louise Declaration on Violence Against Women, women and the criminal justice system, women and economic equality, and education and training. The Secretariat also attended a meeting of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation (CAALL) Sub-Committee on Women and Employment. Issues discussed included part-time work and family related leave provisions.

Research and Development

The Women's Secretariat conducted ongoing research and statistical analysis on the status of women to support government-wide policy development and decision-making. Research encompassed statistical analysis, issue clarification, and policy and program review. The Secretariat also developed an internal database on Saskatchewan women related to education, employment and income levels.

Support to the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council

The Advisory Council, a group of private citizens appointed by the provincial government, provided government with input and recommendations on issues related to the status of women in Saskatchewan.

The Women's Secretariat provided administrative and research support to the Advisory Council on a number of issues including services available to women in the province, women on boards and commissions, the wage gap, family law, and work and family responsibilities. As well, the Secretariat assisted in the development of two information brochures.

Publications and Information

Focus

The Women's Secretariat published "FOCUS" magazine, which was distributed to 10,000 individual women and organizations throughout the province. This publication, through interview profiles, highlights the accomplishments of Saskatchewan women.
"FOCUS" also provides resource information which outlines programs and services available in a variety of areas. In 1990-91, "FOCUS" themes included women in science and advanced technology, diversified careers, and women strengthening their communities.

Distribution

To ensure more women had access to the Secretariat's resources and publications, a Letter of Understanding was developed with Saskatchewan Rural Development. This arrangement enabled an extensive distribution to rural women through over 50 Rural Service Centres across the province.

Information Requests

The Women's Secretariat responded tc ongoing requests for information by preparing and sending material or making referrals to programs and services. Requests varied from statistics to issue clarification to program referrals. "Into Employment - A Handbook for Women," which assists in career preparation, was also distributed on request.

Presentations

In conjunction with the Saskatchewan Public Service Commission, the Secretariat presented a "Balancing Work and Family Responsibilities" seminar at the "Tapestry of Change" Conference. Information seminars were also presented to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Aboriginal Women's Council's Economic Development Conference, and the Regina Business and Professional Women's Club.

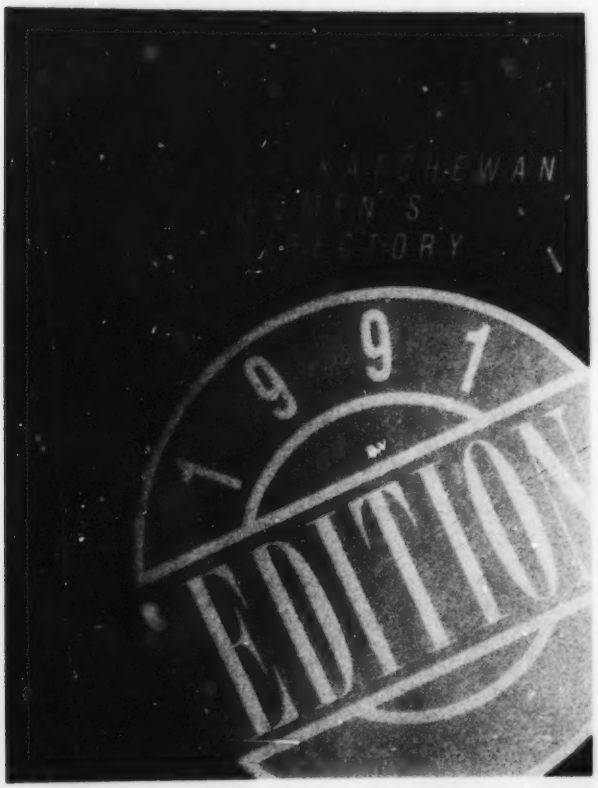
Saskatchewan Women's Directory

In March 1991, the Women's Secretariat produced the Saskatchewan Women's Directory - 1991 Edition. The Directory provides a readily accessible source of information about services, programs and organizations of interest and benefit to Saskatchewan women.

The Directory covers over 300 services, programs and organizations, and is divided into sections covering:

- Aboriginal Women
- Community and Environment
- Health
- Legal, Minority and Human Rights
- Multi-issue Organizations
- Parenting and Family
- Rural and Farm Women
- Family Violence
- Work, Education and Economics

The Directory was produced in co-operation with women's organizations, non-governmental agencies and government departments province-wide. It has been widely distributed to key organizations including women's organizations; regional Social Services, Health and Mental Health offices; urban and rural hospitals; community clinics; social service agencies; police departments; city and town councils; school, civic and university libraries; community associations; Indian Band and Tribal Council offices; Business Resource Centres; rural municipality offices; and Rural Service Centres.

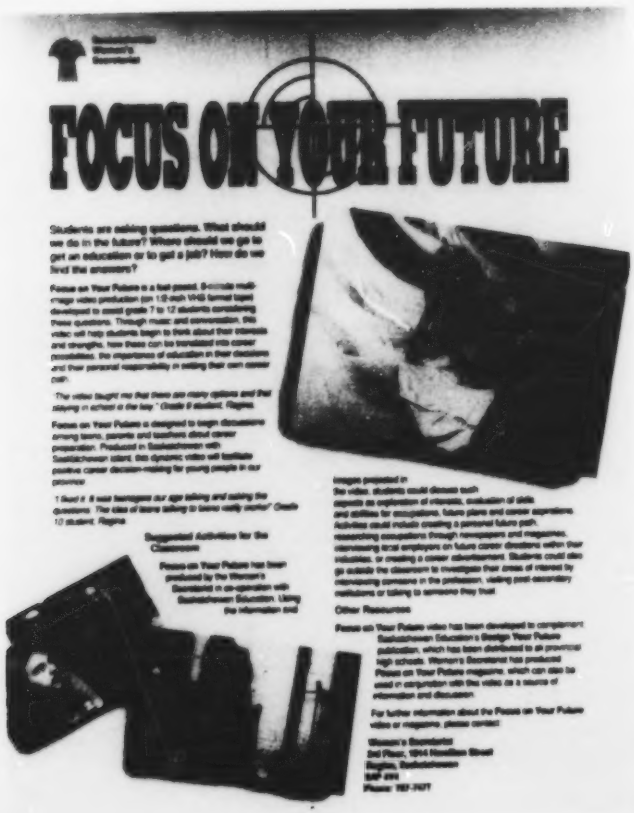


Education

The Women's Secretariat made presentations to high school and university students on career preparation, the labour market, job search techniques, resume development, and interview skills. The Secretariat actively participated on the Student and Career Development Curriculum Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education and the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee on Counselling and Career Development.

"Focus on Your Future," a multi-image presentation, was produced and distributed to high schools throughout the province in November 1990. This is a dynamic, innovative production, which promotes career preparation for students. It was developed in conjunction with Saskatchewan Education and complements its resource material "Design Your Future" and Women's Secretariat's magazine "Focus on Your Future."

The Secretariat also played an active role in the co-ordination of 'Girls Exploring Technology,' a summer day camp for girls in grades 7 and 8. This pilot project was designed to introduce girls to technology and trade careers. The camp's curriculum emphasized to students, at this critical pre-high school level, the importance of math and science in their future plans. 'Girls Exploring Technology' combined the exploration of different careers with hands-on activities and role model presentations. The camp, which took place in July 1991, was a joint pilot project initiated by Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) as part of its Education Equity Program. In addition to SIAST and the Women's Secretariat, other partners were Saskatchewan Education, Regina Public School Division No. 4., Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81, Secretary of State, Bridging Program for Women, Regina Construction Association and the Saskatchewan Science Centre.


FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE

Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council

The members of the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council are appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women from varying fields of expertise and geographic regions, reflecting the wide range of views and diversity of Saskatchewan.

The Council's mandate is to offer independent advice and recommendations for change on issues relating to women. Its terms of reference include:

- advising the government on matters pertaining to women;
- consulting with the public and bringing its concerns on status of women issues to the attention of the government; and
- researching matters relevant to the status of women.

The Advisory Council has been consulted on a variety of issues such as The Family Maintenance Act, The Children's Act, The Homesteads Act, family violence, women on boards and commissions, pension reform, the Women's Secretariat's "Focus on Your Future" publications and video, "FOCUS" magazine themes, and the Regina Mayor's Task Force on Issues of Concern to Women.

In 1990-91, the Council discussed a number of issues including job sharing, flex hours, and women working at home. Two areas on which it focused were:

- Women and the Criminal Justice System

  To attain a better understanding of the system, the Council met with various individuals, including provincial court judges, representatives from the Saskatchewan Police College and the Elizabeth Fry Society. The Council also toured the Pine Grove Correctional Centre for Women.

- Wage Gap

  Through research and presentations, Council members reviewed the current issues and challenges associated with the wage gap for women.

As part of their consultation process, Council members attended various conferences in 1990-91 including Winning Women; Women, the Spirit of Enterprise; The First World Summit on Women and Power; Saskatchewan Women's Institutes' Conference; Third Symposium on Violence and Aggression; Pay Equity Conference; Building Bridges - Prairie West Regional Women's Conference; Saskatchewan Women's Agricultural Network Conference; and the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform.

Council members also participated in the Joint Chairpersons' / Presidents' Meeting of Federal / Provincial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women, and the First Western Provincial / Territorial Joint Advisory Council Meeting.

These interactions and information-sharing opportunities were helpful in assisting the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council to examine provincial issues, discuss concerns with the Minister, and make recommendations on program and policy changes. As well, the Council produced and distributed an information brochure, which outlined its role and mandate.

Last year, the Council produced an information brochure, "Partners for the Future," which promotes women's participation on boards, councils and commissions. During 1990-91, the Council has been monitoring the progress of women's participation.

Women have been encouraged to contact the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council member in their area for further information and consultation. Members of the Council for 1990-91 included:

Pam Allen, Regina
Pam Barber, Regina
Irma Corcoran, Kincaid
Lynn Cresswell, Tisdale
Anne Hryniuk, La Ronge
Jackie Kelly, Regina
Mickey Ludwig-Krock, Saskatoon
Leah McDonald, Regina
Mary Muir, Kindersley - Chair
Lynda Newson, Saskatoon
Donna Rodway, Saskatoon
Marilyn Stradecki, Balcarres
Cliff Swenson, Prince Albert
Paulette Van der Linde, Regina
Alice Wuttunee, Battleford